CELEBRATING HER SPIRIT



Coretta Scott King

APRIL 27, 1927 - JANUARY 30, 2006



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I am convinced that if I had not had a wife with the fortitude, strength and calmness of Coretta, I could not have stood up amid the ordeals and tensions surrounding the Montgomery movement. I came to see the real meaning of that rather trite statement: "A wife can either make or break a husband." Coretta proved to be that type of wife with qualities to make a husband when he could have been so easily broken. In the darkest moments she always brought the light of hope.

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

Coretta Scott King

APRIL 27, 1927 - JANUARY 30, 2006

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2006

Lying in State
Georgia State Capitol
12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m.

Special Remarks:
The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Governor, State of Georgia

The Honorable Shirley Franklin
Mayor, City of Atlanta

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006

Lying in Repose
Ebenezer Baptist Church – Heritage Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 midnight

Memorial Musical Celebration
Ebenezer Baptist Church – Horizon Sanctuary
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2006

A Celebration of Life
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church
12:00 noon

Order of Service

Officiating
Bishop Eddie L. Long
Senior Pastor
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church
Lithonia, GA

Prelude		Mr. Russell Goode *Chattanooga Public Schools (Ret.)* Atlanta Symphony Orchestra New Birth Total Praise Choir Minister Byron Cage, *Director* *Accompanied by the* J. Berry Orchestra of Dekalb County
Processional		The King Family
Call to Worship		Bishop Eddie L. Long
Opening Prayer		Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook *President, Hampton Ministers' Conference* *New York, NY*
Opening Song	*Total Praise* Composed by Richard Smallwood	New Birth Total Praise Choir Minister Byron Cage, *Director* Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Choir Dr. David Morrow, *Director*
The Holy Scriptures *Old Testament*	*Psalms 139: 1-10*	Reverend Vernon C. King *Pastor, First Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC*
New Testament	*Romans 8:28-39*	Elder DeLeice Drane *New Birth Missionary Baptist Church*
Musical Tribute	*The Lord's Prayer*	Sister Miriam Fawaz *New Birth Missionary Baptist Church* *Accompanied by* Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
Official Tributes		The Honorable George W. Bush *President of United States* & Mrs.Laura Bush The Honorable Sonny Purdue *Governor, State of Georgia* The Honorable Shirley Franklin *Mayor, City of Atlanta* Mrs. Zanele M. Mbeki *First Lady, Republic of South Africa*

Order of Service

Musical Tribute	*Vissi d'Arte, Vissi d'Amore* from *Tosca,* G. Puccini	Ms. Juandalynn R. Abernathy, *Soprano* Dr. Joyce Johnson, *Accompanist*
Civil and Human Rights Tributes		Dr. Dorothy I. Height *Chairman of the Board* *National Council of Negro Women* *Washington, DC*
		Ms. Sherry Frank *Executive Director* *American Jewish Committee, Atlanta Chapter*
		Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery *President Emeritus* *Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)*
Musical Tribute	*Ain't Got Time To Die* Arranged by Hall Johnson	Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Choir Dr. David Morrow, *Director*
Special Tributes		The Honorable James Earle Carter *39th President, United States of America*
		The Honorable George H.W. Bush *41st President, United States of America* & Mrs. Barbara Bush
		The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton *42nd President, United States of America*
		The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton *Senator, United States Senate*
Video Presentation		
Friends and Family Tributes		Mrs. Patricia C. Latimore *Personal Assistant to Mrs. King*
		Ms. Shabazz
		Mr. Jesse Hill, Jr. *Chairman Emeritus, The King Center Board*
		Ms. Carole F. Hoover, *Family Friend*
The King Center Tributes		Judge William S. Sessions *Former Member* *King Federal Holiday Commission*
		Mr. Billy Mason *Student, Summer Workshop on Nonviolence*
		Mr. Charles Rachael *Former Member, The Crips*

Order of Service

Special Musical Tribute	*Psalms 23*	Jeff Majors and Born Again Dancers of New Birth
Friends and Family Tributes (continued)		Mrs. Edythe Scott Bagley, *Sister* *Professor (Ret.), Cheney University*
		Mrs. Christine King Farris, *Sister-in-Law*
		Mrs. Naomi Barber King, *Sister-in-Law*
		Mrs. Christine Osburn Jackson, *Cousin*
		Ms. Edith Savage Jennings, *Family Friend*
		Bishop T. D. Jakes *Senior Pastor, The Potter's House* *Dallas, TX*
Musical Tribute	*Courage*	Mr. Michael Bolton *Performing Artist*
Special Acknowledgements		
Clergy Tributes		
		Reverend Dr. Joseph L. Roberts, Jr. *Pastor Emeritus, Ebenezer Baptist Church*
		Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. *Pastor, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church* *Cleveland, OH*
		Father Michael Pfleger *Pastor, St. Sabina Catholic Church, Chicago, IL*
Musical Tribute	*Stand* Written by Donnie McClurkin	Mr. Bebe Winans *Performing Artist*
Special Tributes (continued)		The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy *Senator, United States Senate*
		The Honorable John Conyers *Representative* *United States House of Representatives*
Musical Tribute	*His Eye is on the Sparrow*	Mr. Stevie Wonder *Performing Artist*
Personal Tributes		Dr. Maya Angelou *Author, Poet,Activist*
		The Honorable Andrew Young *Chairman, GoodWorks International, LLC*

Order of Service

Song of Preparation		Mrs. CeCe Winans *Performing Artist*
Eulogy		Elder Bernice A. King *New Birth Missionary Baptist Church*
Closing Selection		Minister Byron Cage *New Birth Missionary Baptist Church*
Benediction		Dr. Robert Schuller *Founder and Pastor Emeritus* *The Crystal Cathedral,* *Garden Grove, CA*
Recessional	*Hallelujah* from Messiah George Frederic Handel	Combined Choirs Atlanta Symphony Orchestra J. Berry Orchestra of Dekalb County

Private Internment

The King Family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Anitoch College Coretta Scott King Scholarship Fund, 795 Livermore Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.

–Excerpt from Edythe Scott Bagley's introduction of Coretta Scott King at the King Center's 25th Anniversary Commemorative Service.

On this 25th Anniversary of the founding of the King Center, in presenting my sister Corretta Scott King, I have chosen not to chronicle her achievements in the traditional sense. Certainly the majority of you in this audience already know many of them. We all know that she has been the driving force behind what the King Center has become and what the Federal Holiday Commission has achieved as a great spiritual festival.

My objective is to try to stimulate you to think about the event which we have been celebrating for the past ten days in terms of what the King Center is, why it came into being, and where it should lead us as the human race continues to evolve towards greater heights of spirituality.

Many of you are probably familiar with Richard Bach's allegorical book entitled Jonathan Livingston Seagull. In searching for fresh ways to present the meaning and purpose of the Center, I got caught up once more in this piece of writing. The book is about freedom and perfection as these terms apply to high achievers. In many ways, its protagonist, a seagull, reminds me of Coretta and Martin. The seagull's consuming passion is for freedom and perfection—not only for himself, but for all seagulls. At one pointe in this piece, Jonathan's three most outstanding qualities are named: he is special, he is gifted, and he is divine. These qualities enabled him to accomplish more than his fellow birds.

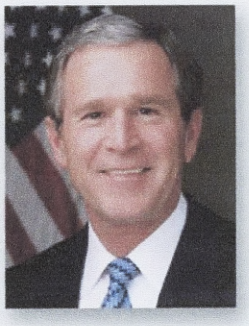
By being special, gifted, and striving to follow the divine side of his nature, Jonathan becomes an extraordinary leader and teacher. But in time, this fact creates problems for him. He is misunderstood; some of the time he is called a devil, other times, a god.

But Jonathan never gives up. He continues to work tirelessly and unrelentingly to overcome his own limitations in achieving freedom and perfection and to teach other gulls to deal with theirs. This meant, among other things, changing their level of consciousness.

Jonathan strives to see the good in everyone of his fellow gulls—and to help them see it in themselves.

Jonathan says, "it all boils down to learning to love."

This is what Coretta Scott King's life and the mission of the King Center are all about—Love in Action.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 3, 2006

Our Nation is deeply saddened by the death of Coretta Scott King. Mrs. King was a beloved, graceful, and courageous woman who called America to its founding ideals and carried on a noble dream. She was a great civil rights leader, and her contributions to freedom and equality made America a better and more compassionate nation. The United States of America is grateful for the good life of Coretta Scott King.

Laura and I were honored to have known Mrs. King, and we will always treasure the time we spent with her. On behalf of all Americans, we send our prayers and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Coretta Scott King.



SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

CITY OF ATLANTA

55 TRINITY Ave, S.W
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335-0300

TEL (404) 330-6100

February 7, 2006

As mayor of the City of Atlanta and on behalf of the people of Atlanta, I offer heartfelt condolences to Yolanda, Martin, Dexter, Bernice and the entire King family on the loss of our sister, Coretta Scott King.

We will miss her quiet, courageous activism and strength but her legacy and contributions to human rights and social change are timeless. A woman whose faith allowed her to stand for what was just and right, she spoke out against war in the name of peace; she cried out against discrimination in the name of equality and she changed the world in the name of freedom.

Coretta Scott King once said, "I learned that when you are willing to make sacrifices for a great cause, you will never be alone, because you will have divine companionship and the support of good people. This same faith and cosmic companionship sustained me after my husband was assassinated, and gave me the strength to make my contribution to carrying forward his unfinished work."

On behalf of the people of Atlanta, while we mourn with you now, we know that you will find peace in the memory of her lifetime commitment and contributions to carrying out Dr. King's unfinished work.

Sincerely,

Shirley Franklin

Shirley Franklin

Coretta Scott King

APRIL 27, 1927 - JANUARY 30, 2006

(The Scott's first child, Eunice, died at the age of four.) Mrs. Scott said that her children would go to college even if she had only one dress to wear and she frequently admonished her children to "get an education and try to be somebody. Then you won't have to be kicked around by anybody. If you want clothes and other material things, get an education first, and if you still want these things, you can have them."

Coretta grew up in Mount Tabor A. M. E. Zion Church where both her parents served in multiple capacities. Her father was Chairman of the Trustee Board and succeeded his own father as the preacher's steward. Her mother served as deaconess, stewardess, and pianist for the choir in which Coretta often sang solos. Coretta, as did Edythe and Obie Leonard, had a good singing voice and learned to love and appreciate music at an early age.

Coretta began working for a white cotton farmer at the age of ten. She dug long rows, making sure the width of a hoe was between each stalk. When the puffs were ready, she worked as a cotton picker, making from four to five dollars a season. She once picked 200 pounds of cotton a day earning an astonishing seven dollars. She learned in the cotton fields not only to endure tough situations, but also to overcome them. She was known to consistently pick more cotton than her male cousins.

By the time she was fifteen, Coretta was director of the youth choirs. Her favorite past time after a day of hard work in the fields was winding the Victrola while the family sang and singing while her mother played piano. Her talent for music was fed by the unusually large collection of records the Scott's owned which included spirituals, gospel, jazz and blues.

For Coretta, Lincoln High School opened new worlds of thought. She developed a compelling drive to be somebody and to serve God. She sensed her service would come through music and began working on developing her musical talent. She played the trumpet and piano and sang in the chorus, appearing as soloist in recitals and musical productions while studying voice with a teacher. Coretta got a chance to leave the segregated south when she won a scholarship to join her sister as one of the few black students at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. She joined the college's NAACP Chapter and Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committee. She first majored in Early Childhood Education but was inspired to change her plans after she sang on a program with Paul Robeson at an NAACP event. He encouraged her to study voice full-time and she dreamed of having a career like his that combined music performance with social activism.

Prior to completing her studies at Antioch in 1951, Coretta was advised by the head of the music department to apply for admission to Boston's New England Conservatory of Music and to the Smith Noyes Foundation for a fellowship. She was accepted at the Conservatory and her plan was to specialize in voice while getting a music degree. Coretta arranged for lodging and breakfast by cleaning the floor on which she lived. Sometimes, her dinner consisted of graham crackers, peanut









An Unusual
Type of Concert!

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Presents

Mrs. Coretta Scott King
(Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

IN

A 'FREEDOM CONCERT'

A Moving, Sensitive Story
Of The
Freedom Struggle
Told In
Song And Narration

(Accompanied by Jonathan Brice)

AT TOWN HALL NEW YORK
Sunday, Nov. 15, 1964 5:00 P.M.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King

MRS. Martin Luther King, Jr., wife of the internationally famous civil rights leader who represented and heralded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, tells a stirring first story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott up to the present. At the side of her husband since those early days, few persons know the full story behind the telling of that story is done both in song and narration, presenting it with a unique rendering that has never been heard before.

A PRODUCT of Antioch College at Yellow Springs, Ohio, and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, Mrs. King previously appeared in defense of civil rights around the U. S. as well as in Europe, Africa and India before interested activists in the civil rights movement dotted her limited repertoire.

MRS. King made her concert debut in 1948 at the Mt. Zion Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Ohio. She has since appeared in some 25 major cities across the United States from Los Angeles, California to Boston, Massachusetts. In 1959, while touring India with her husband, she was invited to sing for many groups in cities, towns and villages throughout India.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION
COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia mourns the loss of Coretta Scott King, one of the most inspirational civil rights leaders of our time. Throughout the Civil Rights movement, Coretta Scott King was an aid and comfort to her husband, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and following his tragic death, dedicated herself to continuing his work; and

WHEREAS: In 1968, Mrs. King founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia to honor Dr. King's memory and to advance the cause of civil rights; and

WHEREAS: Mrs. King was a courageous woman with steadfast morals and a deep understanding of the road to ending segregation in our nation, who fought for equal treatment for all citizens; and

WHEREAS: Coretta Scott King demonstrated unwavering dedication to the cause of social justice that she and her husband held dear. She called upon America to stand up for its founding ideals and carried that message across the world; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 4, 2006, as a day to commemorate the life of MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING. I encourage all Georgians to honor and remember her as one of the most graceful and influential civil rights leaders of our time.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this fourth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand six.

Sonny Perdue

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF

In Remembrance of

Dignity, elegance, courage, faith-filled and strength are all words that describe Coretta Scott King—a peace activist and civil rights leader. She was wife and partner of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and "First Lady" of the civil rights movement. She stood by Dr. King's side through thick and thin and fought tirelessly to keep his legacy alive. On January 30, 2006, Coretta Scott King rejoined Dr. King as she transitioned to her eternal reward.

Coretta Scott King was born in Heiberger, Alabama on April 27, 1927, the third of four children to Bernice McMurray and Obadiah "Obie" Scott. She inherited a rich legacy of faith, family, character, music, leadership and entrepreneurship. She was named for her grandmother Cora, a woman of unusual strength and drive. Although Coretta never knew her grandmother, she was often told that she was much like her. Her father, maternal grandmother, and slave-born maternal grandfather all grew and sold produce in the community. Coretta's mother and maternal grandmother were seamstresses. One of her deepest regrets was never having known her grandma Cora.

Coretta's father had a keen business sense and unflagging work ethic that put him in competition with white businessmen. He combined chicken farming and hauling lumber as a business. He was the first "colored man" in the county to own a truck and later a sawmill; and, in 1946, he opened a grocery store on his own property. As a result of his entrepreneurial endeavors, he was often stopped and threatened by white men on the road at night. In spite of this, he was determined to make a way for his family despite the dangers. Coretta often heard her father say to her mother, "I may not be back."

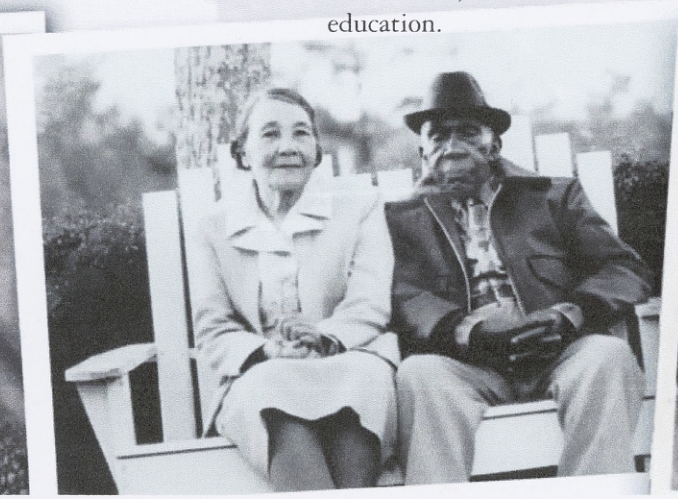
Mrs. Scott was a strong and righteous woman who taught Coretta the values of honesty, truth, compassion, perseverance and the importance of keeping a spiritual focus. With the help of her children, she gardened, fed the hogs and chickens, and milked and fed the cows while Mr. Scott worked away from home. Later, she worked along side her husband in the grocery store.

When Coretta entered school, she joined other community children in walking over four miles to Crossroads School. She would soon realize the unfairness of white children riding to their well-built brick school while African American children walked. She committed herself to getting an education so that she could use it her education as an instrument to change conditions.

After completing the sixth grade at Crossroads, Coretta joined her sister at the Lincoln High School in Marion, Alabama. The Scotts paid four dollars and fifty cents in tuition for each child as well as room and board for their children to live with a family during the week. White children were bussed to Marion High School daily. In Coretta's junior year, the county allotted some funds for transportation for African-American students and Mr. Scott converted an old truck into a bus that Mrs. Scott drove a total of forty miles each day.

Despite their limited schooling, her parents placed a high value on education and made enormous sacrifices to ensure that Coretta, her older sister, Edythe, and brother, Obie Leonard received the best possible education.







In Remembrance of

butter and fruit. She was determined not to write home for money.

After college graduation, Coretta moved to Boston to attend the New England Conservatory of Music and fulfill her dream of becoming a classical concert singer. One day in 1952, she was introduced to a man named Martin Luther King, Jr. who was a preacher pursuing his Ph.D. at Boston University. Two destinies linked that would later converge to change a nation–but Coretta did not know it at the time. She knew her calling in life was to make a difference in the world by working to change conditions for blacks in the south. She was certain her contribution would be through music, not ministry.

As Coretta and Martin became more acquainted with one another, they discovered that they shared similar concerns about the plight of their people. The more time she spent with him, she began to sense just how different he was. Coretta was always a champion of hope, dignity and freedom. Even before she met Martin, she was involved in the peace movement and because of this, she was the first to convince him to speak out against the Vietnam War. She has always had a keen sense of history and she believed and frequently quoted Horace Mann's admonition: "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."

On June 18, 1953, Coretta and Martin married and in September, took up residence in Montgomery, Alabama, where Coretta Scott King began to assume the many functions of the pastor's wife at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

Coretta Scott King entered the world stage in 1955 as wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Prepared by her family, education, and personal commitment for a life dedicated to social justice and peace, she played an important leadership role in the American Civil Rights Movement. Her remarkable partnership with Dr. King also produced four children and a family devoted to social justice and nonviolent social change. During Dr. King's career, Mrs. King focused on raising their children: Yolanda Denise (b. 1955), Martin Luther III (b. 1957), Dexter Scott (b. 1961), and Bernice Albertine (b.1963), balancing her time between mothering and movement work, speaking engagements before church, civic, college, fraternal and peace groups. To help raise funds for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the nonviolent direct action organization for which Dr. King served as first president, she conceived and performed a series of favorably-reviewed Freedom Concerts which combined prose





Coretta Scott King

APRIL 27, 1927 - JANUARY 30, 2006

and poetry narration with musical selections. In 1957, she and Dr. King journeyed to Ghana to mark that country's independence. Dr. and Mrs. King spent nearly a month in India in 1959 on a pilgrimage to visit sites associated with Mahatma Ghandi, and to meet with his disciples.

In 1964, she accompanied Dr. King to Oslo, Norway, where he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Even prior to her husband's first public statement against the Vietnam War in 1967, Mrs. King functioned as liaison to peace and justice organizations and as an advocate for the unheard and disadvantaged in the councils of public officials.

After her husband's assassination in 1968, instead of retreating with her young children into her grief, Coretta Scott King stepped out into the forefront to continue her husband's legacy. She began this the day before his funeral, leading the sanitation worker's march he had gone to Memphis to support. She continued to stand up for social justice for the rest of her life. Mrs. King was devoted to preserving Dr. King's legacy by committing much of her energy and attention to developing an building the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and nonviolent philosophy.

Situated in the Freedom Hall Complex encircling Dr. King's tomb, the King Center is part of a twenty-three acre national historic park which includes his birth home and which hosts over one million visitors a year. For the twenty-seven years between 1968- 1995, Mrs. King devoted her life to developing the King Center, the first institution built in honor of an African-American leader. As the Founding President, Chair, and Chief Operating Executive Officer, she dedicated herself to providing local, national and international programs that have trained tens of thousands of people in Dr. King's nonviolence philosophy and methods. She guided the creation of the largest archives in the world of civil rights documents at the King Center. In 1995, she passed the torch of leadership to her son Dexter Scott King.

Mrs. King spearheaded the massive educational and lobbying campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday. In 1984, at the request of Mrs. King, Congress established the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission to assure appropriate commemoration of Dr. King's Birthday throughout the nation and world. Mrs. King was the commssion's Chair for its duration. On the third Monday in January 1986, the first official national holiday in honor of Dr. King was celebrated. The King holiday is now celebrated by all 50 states and by millions of people in over 100 countries.

Coretta Scott King has carried the message of nonviolence and the dream of the "Beloved -



Community" throughout the world. She has led goodwill missions to Africa, Latin America, Europe, and Asia and has spoken at some of history's most massive peace and justice rallies. She served as a Woman's Strike for Peace delegate to the seventeen-nation disarmament conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1962 and as an alternate U.S. Delegate to the United Nations during the Carter Administration. She is the first woman to deliver the class–day address at Harvard, and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Through her international speaking platform and leadership for nonviolent social change, Mrs. King carried her message of hope and healing across the nation and throughout the world.

An advocate of interracial movements for nonviolent social change, in 1974 Mrs. King co-founded a broad coalition of over 100 religious, labor, business, civil, and women rights organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity serving as co-chair of both the National Committee for Full Employment and the Full Employment Action Council. In 1983, she brought together more than 800 human rights organizations to form the New Coalition of Conscience, which sponsored the 20th Anniversary March on Washington, the largest demonstration in our nation's capital up to that year.

In 1985, Mrs. King and two of her children were arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington, D. C. for protesting against apartheid. In 1987, she helped lead the Mobilization Against Fear and Intimidation in Forsyth County Georgia. In preparation for the Reagan-Gorbachev talks in 1988, she served as head of the U. S. delegation of Women for a Meaningful Summit in Athens, Greece; and, in 1990, as the U.S.S.R. was redefining itself, Mrs. King was co-convener of the Soviet-American Women's Summit in Washington, D.C.

The recipient of more than 50 major awards and doctorates from over 40 colleges and universities, Mrs. King Authored *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.* and has written a syndicated newspaper column. She has co-founded and served on the boards of numerous social change organizations including the Black Leadership Forum, the National Black Coalition for Voter Participation and the Black Leadership Roundtable.

Heads of state including Prime Ministers and Presidents have held dialogues with Mrs. King. Yet she has also led on picket lines with striking workers and mothers seeking welfare rights. She has








met with great spiritual leaders including Pope John Paul II, The Dalai Lama, Dorothy Day and Bishop Desmond Tutu. She witnessed the historic handshake between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yassir Arafat at the signing of the Middle East Peace Accords and stood along side Nelson Mandela when he claimed victory in South Africa's first free elections. Mrs. King has traveled across our nation and world speaking out on behalf of racial and economic justice, religious freedom, dignity and human rights for women, children, gays and lesbians, people with disabilities, universal healthcare, educational opportunities, nuclear disarmament and environmental protection. She has lent her support to nonviolent freedom movements worldwide and has consulted with many world leaders, including Corezon Aquino, Kenneth Kaunda, and Thabo Mbeki. As one of the most influential women leaders, Coretta Scott King has tried to make ours a better world and, in the process, has shaped make history.

Mrs. King led a life of extraordinary courage and strength. She did not speak her convictions publicly while failing to honor them privately. She did not hold grudges but rose above resentment to reconcile with others. She was a woman of extrodinary grace and dignity sent to us by God "for such a time as this."

She leaves this legacy of love and reconciliation to her loving children, Yolanda Denise, Martin, III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine; her devoted siblings, Edythe Scott Bagley (Arthur) of Chester, PA, and Reverend Obadiah Scott, Jr. (Alberta) of Marion, AL; devoted sisters-in-law, Christine King Farris (Isaac) and Naomi Barber King; nieces and nephews, Reverend Alveda King, Reverend Derek B. King Sr., Reverend Vernon King, Isaac Farris, Jr., Auturo Bagley, and Angela Watkins; a loving and devoted assistant, Patricia Latimore; and a host of great nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.



Precious Moments













Precious Moments











Pall Bearers

Dr. Arthur Bagley
Auturo Bagley
Howard Dent
Isaac Farris, Sr.
Isaac Farris, Jr.
Derek B. King, Sr.
Philip Osburn Mott
Roland Osburn, III

Honorary Pall Bearers

Donzaleigh Abernathy
Juanita Abernathy
Ralph David Abernathy, III
Kwame Abernathy
Lillie Baxter
Eddie Beal, Jr.
John Beal
Joshua Beal
Harry Belafonte
Lerone Bennett
Tony Bennett
Willie Bolden
Bono
Walton C. Bride
Robert J. Brown
Laura Brown
Xernona Clayton Brady
Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole
Kelvin Lynn Cothren
Dorothy Cotton
Lloyd Davis
Dr. Camille Davis-Williams
Bill Day
Jerry Dunfey
Jarrett Ellis
Rev. Kenneth Flowers
Henry Ford, Jr.
Russell Goode
William Gray
Dr. Robert Green
Lettie Green
Dick Gregory
Nadine Hack
Delores Harmon
Freddye Henderson
Jesse Hill, Jr.
Halton Horton
Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
Edith Savage Jennings
J.T. Johnson
Ingrid Saunders Jones
Derek B. King, Jr.
Kyle King
Steven Klein
Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Jr.
Cynthia Lewis
The Honorable John Lewis
Lillian Lewis
Evelyn Lowery
Frances Lucas
Kent Matlock
Dr. Lonnie McDonald
Dora E. McDonald
Dr. Maggie Mermin
Herman J. Russell
Rev. James Orange
Rev. E. Randall Osburn
Catherine Reynolds
Harold Sims, Jr.
Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner
Dean Day Smith
Dave Thomas
Steve Thomas
Rev. C. T. Vivian
William "Sonny" Walker
Dr. Levi Watkins
Carl Ware
Rev. Raphael G. Warnock
Nancy Wilson
Andrew "Bo" Young, III
Carolyn Young
Dr. Walter F. Young
The King Center Staff (Past & Present)

Honorary Flower Bearers

Lisa Young Alston
Celeste Beal
Jennifer Beal
Leacier Carter
Phyllis Daniels-Evans
Jewel Davis
Evelyn Dudley
Gail Hollins
Wanda Hunter
Alice Eason Jenkins
Kim Judd
Yvonne Kennedy
Robin Scott King
Alveda King
Karen Lowery
Dr. Kendra A. King
Venus King
Victoria King
Paulette Norvel Lewis
Kelli McKaskill
Joy McInnis
Reneé McMurry
Cheryl Odeleye
Cheryl Lowery Osborne
Paula Young Shelton
Kimberly Thornton
Hilda R. Tompkins
Dr. Angela Farris Watkins
Farris Christine Watkins
Andrea Young

Honor Guard

The Atlanta Police Department

Acknowledgements

The Coca-Cola Company

Air Tran
The City of Atlanta
Dekalb County
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
Fulton County Sheriff Department
Georgia Power Company
George's Motor Coach
Gourmet Services
Hyatt Regency Atlanta
The Omni Hotel @ CNN Center
Mack II
National Park Service
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church
Park Place Condominium Association
Publix Super Markets
Steinway Piano Gallery
Studio Named Bermudez
TBW Consulting Group, Inc.
Turner Broadcasting System

Planning Committee

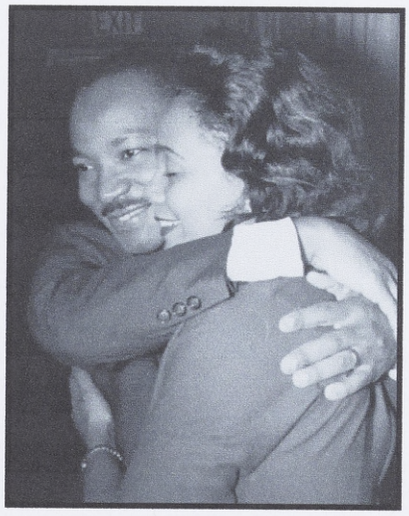
Kathleen Bertrand
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Precious Moments







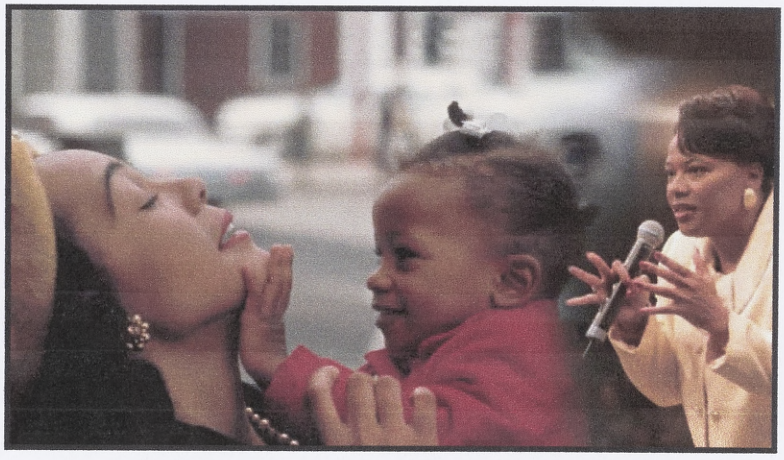


Precious Moments









Coretta Scott King

APRIL 27, 1927 - JANUARY 30, 2006

CHRONOLOGY

1927 - April 27th - Coretta Scott born to Obadiah Scott and Bernice McMurry Scott in Marion, Alabama.

1945 - Graduated Lincoln High School as valedictorian in May.

1951 - A.B. in Elementary Education and Music from Antioch College.

1953 - Married to Martin Luther King, Jr. on June 18th on the lawn of the Scott's home. Martin Luther King, Sr. performs ceremony.

1954 - Receives Mus.B. degree in education with a major in voice and minor in violin from New England Conservatory of Music. Assumes role of pastor's wife at Montgomery's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

1955 - The King's first child, daughter Yolanda Denise is born on November 17th.

December 5th - Montgomery Bus Boycott begins after Rosa Parks arrest on December 1. Dr. King chosen as spokesperson for boycott and to head Montgomery Improvement Association. King home becomes headquarters until official office is opened.

1956 - January 30th - King home bombed while Mrs. King, a church member and baby Yolanda inside. No one is harmed. On December 20th the U.S. Supreme Court ordering desegregation of Montgomery busses reaches Montgomery. Busses are integrated

1957 - The King's second child, son Martin Luther King III is born.

1960 - The Kings move to Atlanta. Dr. King assumes co-pastorate of Ebenezer Baptist Church and Mrs. King becomes co-first lady of church. In October, Democratic Candidate John F. Kennedy calls Mrs. King to express concern for her husband's safety after he is incarcerated after being sentenced to 6 months hard labor at Georgia's Reidsville State Penitentiary for violating probation on a minor traffic charge by sitting in at the Rich's department store lunch counter in Atlanta. Many historians believe this call gave Kennedy the black vote and his margin of victory in the election. Dr. King is released shortly thereafter.

1961 - January 30 - The King's third child, son Dexter Scott King is born in Atlanta.

1963 - The King's fourth child, daughter Bernice Albertine is born on March 28th.

August 28 - Joins her husband at Great March on Washington.

1964 - Landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 is enacted. In December Mrs. King travels with Dr. King to Oslo, Norway where he receives the Nobel Peace Prize on December 10.

1965 - Mrs. King helps Dr. King lead the Selma to Montgomery March for Voting Rights. The Voting Rights Act is passed and signed on August 5th by President Johnson.

1967 - Mrs. King convenes a group of supporters of Dr. King to discuss retrieval of his papers from Boston University and the preservation and plan for a place to house them in Atlanta.

1968 - April 4 - Dr. King assassinated.

April 8 - Accompanied by her three oldest children, Mrs. King leads march in Memphis, which Dr. King was scheduled to lead.

1969 - January 15th - King Center sponsors first birthday celebration in honor of Dr. King at Ebenezer Baptist Church, followed by King Center MLK birthday Observance programs every year afterward. On January 17th Mrs. King announces plans for the programs and buildings of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center.

1973 - As a result of Mrs. King's initiative. National Park Service declares the area containing Dr. King's birth home, the King Center, his crypt and Ebenezer Baptist Church as a National Historic District.

1974 - Launches fund-raising drive to build Freedom Hall Complex.

1982 - Mrs. King dedicates King Center's Freedom Hall Complex.

1983 - August 27 - To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Great March on Washington, Mrs. King and King Center convene the New Coalition of Conscience, which brings together 750 organizations in the most massive nonviolent civil and human rights coalition in U.S. history. The number one legislative priority was the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday bill, which Congress passed approximately three weeks later. In October, Mrs. King attended the ceremony at the White House where President Reagan signs legislation establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday.

1985 - In July Mrs. King, her son Martin III and her daughter Bernice are arrested in a protest at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C.

1986 - Mrs. King leads first Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday March.

1990 - Serves as chairperson of the Atlanta Committee, which hosts visit of Nelson and Winnie Mandela. Introduces Nelson Mandela to mass rally in Atlanta.

1997 - Receives Chairman's Award, Congressional Black Caucus

2004 - Receives Antioch University's Horace Mann Award

January 13, 2006 - Mrs. King makes final public appearance at Annual King Center "Salute to Greatness" Dinner.

January 30, 2006 - Transition of Mrs. Coretta Scott King

Message of Gratitude

To have had Coretta Scott King as a Mother, is to know unconditional love! Her love and memory will remain in our hearts and spirits forever--gently urging us to pursue God's purpose for our lives. It was our unique privilege and blessing to have had her as a parent. We praise and thank God for her.

Many of you know that our Mother was also a loving, selfless and devoted daughter, sister, friend and matriarch who, each year, generously acknowledged the birthdays and special events of hundreds of friends and family whom she held dear.

Her life of faith, courage and commitment was a resonant sermon to the ages of the purpose and power available to all of us if we work together to build the "Beloved Community" of humankind. Her example of reaching out to others in love and reconciliation, taught us that love is indestructible and only increases by being shared.

To those of you who reached out to us in love, prayers or any other generosity of time, talent, or resources, we extend our profound appreciation. For those of you who shared her amazing and inspiring journey, we thank you and ask that you continue to perpetuate her legacy of love, peace, and nonviolence in your lives and in the lives of all that you touch. May we all walk, as she did, with dignity, courage and confidence in the knowledge that we are all children of The One God.

We ask that you continue to remember us in prayer as we will remember you.

May God bless you all!

Yolanda D. King

Martin Luther King, III

Dexter Scott King

Bernice A. King



She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

– Proverbs 31: 25-31



"The Journey"

I'll go alone if I have to. I'll lay aside every sin and weight which so easily besets me. So if you're behind me when I begin this journey, stay there, for you will only hinder me. In my basket in case, you are wondering are seeds to be sown. You see, this is a road less traveled and only a few they'll be that will find it.

My footprints will someday vanish from this trail, But the seeds I sow will grow and bear fruit that will remain. The fragrance from this fruit will draw hungry souls to sojourn with me, as we all seek God in Spirit and Truth. Dust from this road tempts my thirst, but it is not mere water that I thirst for. The cup of destiny contains the substance that will quench my thirst, So only from destiny's cup will I drink. Eternity has allowed me only a few moments in time, So I must be about my Father's business and find my way back to where I belong. My steps are ordered towards a destination that has been waiting for me since the laying of the world's foundation. If I deviate from this journey, I'll only delay my arrival. Although my feet are shod with preparation, they still grow weary, So I must stand on the promises of God to gain strength for miles of this road left untrodden. At the end of this journey waits a festive table filled with blessings and prayers that I prayed and had forgotten. Have your fill of these blessings! Divide them among my prodigy to the fourth and fifth generation, For along the way, I've eaten of bread you know not of. I am full. Tired from my journey, Jesus bids me to rest and extends His hand with an invitation.

I'll gladly accept and sit on the porch of the Kingdom to recap my travels and realize that this journey was just as important as the destination.

– Evelyn K. Dudley
(One of Mrs. King's Caretakers)